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Chief, WE

5 May 1952

Chief of Station, []

REDSOX/OPERATIONAL

Broadway Report on Strength and Organization of a Latvian
Resistance Movement in the Kurzeme Area

Reference: [] 2471

1. The attached Broadway report was received with a covering
letter, the substance of which was reported in reference.

2. A report containing the information furnished by the
Broadway agent recent exfiltrated from Latvia will be forwarded
in the near future.

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Rpt. No: WELA-8374
Date of Rpt: 5 May 1952
Date of Info: October 1951
Source: BROADWAY
Eval: B-2

STRENGTH AND ORGANIZATION OF A LATVIAN RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT IN THE KURZEME AREA

1. The leader of a Latvian resistance movement in the Kurzeme area is known within the organization as "Karlis". The complete scope of his responsibilities is not known, but he is certainly responsible for coordinating the activities of a passive resistance element in Riga and Kurzeme and an active resistance element in Kurzeme country areas. He spends most of his time in Riga and is believed to be the "operational" representative of a resistance "brain trust", the members of which are in Riga.

Strength and functions of the passive element (Riga/Kurzeme)

2. The core of the known passive element (Riga/Kurzeme) consists of about 30 tried and trusted patriots. All live legally and for security purposes are divided into small groups. Within these small groups are usually to be found bosom friends who trust each other well. Control of these groups is maintained by Karlis by means of his personal liaison men. Outside of these groups identities are not known, other than by Karlis and his immediate circle and, in some cases, by certain of the liaison men.

3. The passive element resistance men endeavor to remain as unobtrusive as possible. Their first consideration is to preserve their legal existence in order that they may continue to assist both their illegally and legally living brethren.

4. Their tasks are as follows:

- a. to collect information from their non-resistance associates, places of employment, etc., which may be of help to the security of the Resistance Movement (e.g., news of impending deportations or raids).
- b. to collect weapons and stores for use in an emergency.
- c. to give information which may be of help to the partisans in planning raids or actions to obtain funds.
- d. to produce digests of radio and press for the information of the Resistance Movement.
- e. to help in the procurement of medicines and supplies for the use of the partisans.

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5. Most of the passive resistance men are in good positions, such as engineers, doctors, chief accountants, managing directors, teachers, etc.

Liaison between the passive resistance and partisan elements

6. No members of the partisan element are aware of the identities of passive resistance members. Liaison is strictly controlled by Karlis, who uses individual passive resistance members as liaison men to each of the partisan groups. Karlis himself sometimes sees the leaders of partisan groups separately in order to transmit instructions and to receive situation reports. Meetings with Karlis can be arranged by a group leader either through dead letter boxes or through the group's liaison man. The arranging of a meeting with Karlis may take anything up to three weeks. In using a dead letter box a simplified code, understandable only to Karlis and the group leader, is used (e.g., "At the same time, one month and a day later at the old oak.")

Strength and Organization of the partisan element

7. In September 1951, in Kurzeme the strength of the organized partisans was approximately 70 armed men. The body is broken down into groups, each of not normally more than 10 partisans. Communication between groups is restricted to a minimum and is usually (but not always) effected through or on the instructions of Karlis, e.g., for rendering each other mutual operational assistance. These figures do not include patriots who are hiding in the area with close friends or relatives but who have been unable to obtain access to the resistance organization.

8. There are some other groups who, for security reasons, fear to ally themselves to the organization, i.e., are so security conscious that they will cooperate with no other group nor accept any new members whatsoever.

9. Each partisan group, in addition to its liaison man with Karlis, has a number of legally living supporters (e.g., foresters, farmers, etc.) in the areas in which it operates. These supporters are always close friends or distant relatives of one or other of the members of the group. (N.B., Direct contact with close relatives is avoided for security reasons.) In an area of say 80 x 80 km. a group may have 3 or 4 supporters, and an important factor when considering a site for a hide-out is the proximity of the nearest supporter.

10. Single partisans sometimes spend several days in barns or out-houses of supporters' farms. Some houses where supporters live alone were utilized for building secret caves and hiding places under the floors. With the extension of collectivization and the Soviet practice of placing informants in every dwelling it has now, however, become virtually impossible to stay in the actual homes or farmhouses of supporters, and it is dangerous to call supporters from their homes at night, even by

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prearranged signals. Supporters can now be met only away from their homes, either by prior arrangement or after careful observation of a supporter's movements by the partisans. (One group leader states that when approaching the homes of certain of his supporters whom he wishes to contact he first tries to ascertain whether the horses have been taken away for grazing. Knowing the grazing areas he can often thus find his supporter by finding the horses and establishes contact unobserved.)

Tasks of the supporters

11. Apart from acting as the local "eyes and ears" of the partisans among the legally residing population, the supporters assist in overcoming partisan food supply problems. As an example, there is a fair amount of "free market" traffic passing through the Kurzeme areas. For example, Lithuanian "spekulanti" often travel from the border areas of Mazeikiai and Zagare, transporting produce and livestock for sale in Riga where they command higher prices. These "spekulanti" are ~~also~~ sometimes intercepted by partisan supporters, and pigs, poultry, etc. are purchased with partisan funds. These are deals which are satisfactory to both sides, and in their own interests spekulanti can be relied upon not to talk.

Aims of the partisans

12. At present the partisans can do little more than provide refuge for those members of the passive organization who feel threatened. Since 1949, the partisans have been concerned with preserving their strength until an opportunity is found of making use of the potential which they and the passive resistance elements have to offer. In the meantime they are anxious to learn and train for the day when they will be of use. To this end they look to the West for guidance and help.

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